

REMARKS

Claims 1-56 are pending in this application. In the Office Action dated December 7, 2004, the Examiner took the following action: (1) objected to the drawings; (2) rejected claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement; (3) rejected claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13, 15, 42-46, 48-54 and 56 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the instant application's disclosed prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,369,409 to Urabe et al. ("Urabe"); (4) rejected claims 16-22, 25-27, 29-35 and 38-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the instant application's disclosed prior art in view of Urabe in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,374,337 to Estakhri; and (5) objected to claims 5-6, 10, 14, 23-24, 28, 36-37, 41, 47 and 55 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten.

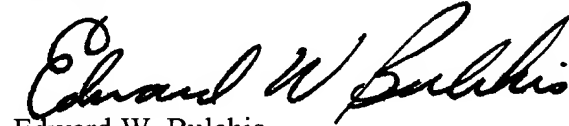
Although applicant does not believe that any of the claims are unpatentable in view of the cited references, applicant is amending the claims to obtain an early allowance of this application. Specifically, claim 1 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4 and allowable claim 5, claim 11 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 14, claim 16 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22 and allowable claim 23, claim 29 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 35 and allowable claim 36, claim 42 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 46 and allowable claim 47, and claim 49 is being amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 55. Applicant is also adding new claims 57-78. Claim 57 is a combination of claims 1 and 9 and allowable claim 10. Claim 63 is a combination of claims 16 and 27 and allowable claim 28. Finally, claim 71 is a combination of claims 29 and 40 and allowable claim 41.

Applicant is also amending claims 1 and 11 to eliminate the "at least one output terminal" limitation, which is purportedly not shown in the drawings or described in the specification.

All of the claims remaining in the application, *i.e.*, claims 1-3, 6-13, 15-21, 24-34, 37-46, 48-54 and 56-78, are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+copy)

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